

From: Paul Williams
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/6/01 4:00pm
Subject: The Microsoft Settlement?

Dear Sir

From what I can make out, this is not a settlement, it is a whitewash. Microsoft has acted in a monopolistic manner and it has not been punished nor has it been prohibited from acting in a like manner again. It has even, cynically, offered US schools product with which to indoctrinate the consumers of the future.

The original judgement which split the company into an operating systems part and an applications part would have offered the world real options. Yes my life as an IT Manager has been greatly simplified by the Microsoft monopoly in the same way as my predecessors was made easy by the dominance of IBM. However, I operate a mix of Windows and Unix machines. If the applications part of Microsoft was broken from the operating systems part, the applications would then be developed on all platforms, creating competition and flexibility for the users.

If this so called settlement is seen to be upheld, what hope does the common man have against the largest companies that can even buy their own justice?

Kind regards
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